

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 11 has been amended via the addition of the indication that this figure depicts a prior art arrangement. A replacement sheet is submitted bearing this amendment in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.84(c).

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the above-identified Office Action. The above listing of the claims supersedes any previous listing. Favorable reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Drawings

In this response, Fig. 11 has been amended to indicate that this figure depicts "Prior Art" and thus overcomes the objection raised in paragraph 1 of this Office Action.

Claim Amendments

In this response, claims 1-18 have been cancelled and replaced with a new set of claims. This cancellation renders moot the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 10-13, under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by the reference to Ko; along with the rejection of claims 2, 4, 14 and 15 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ko in view of Proctor; the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ko in view of Marzolin et al.; and the rejection of claims 7-9 and 16-18 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ko in view of Dall.

The newly presented claims distinguish over the cited art in that they call the fiber aggregate outer layer to comprise intertwined fibers and vertically oriented fibers which enter into the concrete block and interconnect the fiber aggregate outer layer to the outer surface of the concrete block. This arrangement secures the fiber aggregate outer layer to the concrete block in a manner which strongly secures the same in

place and prevents its removal even in the event of hurricanes and associated powerful winds and large water flow and/or the like.

In Ko, a vegetation block comprises a concrete block body 1 and a covering body 2 formed in a sheet shape and fixed onto the block body 1. Ko does not have in the covering body vertically oriented fibers entering into the concrete block. Since the vertically oriented fibers do not enter the concrete block body, the covering body 2 may be peeled from the concrete block body 1 in a long usage or special occasion.

Proctor discloses spraying a fibrous mat for plant bed. Proctor also does not disclose vertically oriented fibers entering into the concrete block.

Marzolin et al. discloses a permeable architectural material with a uniform grain size. The vertically oriented fibers entering into the concrete block of the invention are not disclosed in Marzolin et al.

Dall was cited to show a molded pulp container using paper pulp. The vertically oriented fibers entering into the concrete block of the invention are not disclosed in Marzolin et al.

It is respectfully submitted that as explained above, the prior art arrangements are unable to provide the interconnection which is possible with the claimed subject matter and which therefore cannot provide the same desirable characteristics.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as they have been newly presented are allowable over the art which has been applied in this Office Action.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KANESAKA BERNER AND PARTNERS



Manabu Kanesaka

Registration No. 31,467

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

(703) 519-9785 MAN/eb

Facsimile: (703) 519-7769

Date: October 11, 2007